

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a process for producing novel lignin derivatives, which comprises using a lignophenol derivative containing a 5 diphenylpropane unit formed by binding a carbon atom at an ortho-position relative to a phenolic hydroxyl group of a phenol derivative to a carbon atom at a benzyl-position of a phenylpropane fundamental unit of lignin, and binding an oxygen atom of the hydroxyl group and a  $\beta$ -positional carbon atom under alkali conditions under which the hydroxyl group can dissociate, to obtain an arylcoumaran derivative containing an 10 arylcoumaran unit in which a coumaran skeleton is bound to an aromatic ring of lignin.